

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 01313 161436Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
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R 161411Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8826

UNCLAS MASERU 1313

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC LT

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

REF: STATE 150808

1. EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO MAJOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS TO BE DEVELOPED DURING NEXT FIVE YEARS EXCEPT ROADS AND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

2. THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HAS RISEN TO DOLS 20 MILLION AND IS LIKELY TO INCREASE FURTHER. THE DETAILED ENGINEERING STUDY IS BEING FINANCED BY THE ABU DHABI FUND WITH A SOFT LOAN OF DOLS 750,000. THE DUTCH CONSULTANTS ARE EXPECTED TO SUBMIT THEIR PRELIMINARY REPORT IN AUGUST 1978 AND THEIR FINAL REPORT BY FEBRUARY 1979. EDF HAS PLEDGED GRANT ASSISTANCE OF DOLS 3.45 MILLION BUT A SIGNED AGREEMENT IS PENDING COMPLETION OF THE DESIGN STUDY. AN AGREEMENT FOR A SOFT LOAN OF DOLS 4.14 MILLION IS READY FOR SIGNATURE WITH THE KUWAIT FUND. AN AGREEMENT FOR A SOFT LOAN OF DOLS 6 MILLION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE BADEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN SIGNED. ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE LOANS OF DOLS 2.2 MILLION BY ADB AND DOLS 4.8 MILLION BY OPEC. THE LESOTHO GOVERNMENT WILL FOREGO CUSTOMS REVENUES ON SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT IMPORTED BY THE DONORS FOR THIS PROJECT.

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PAGE 02 MASERU 01313 161436Z

3. THERE IS GROWING CONFIDENCE THAT FUNDING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HAS BEEN FIRMLY LINED UP NOW. GOL HAS ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE DATES: MAY 1979 FOR INVITING TENDERS, NOVEMBER 1979 FOR BEGINNING CONSTRUCTION, AND SEPTEMBER 1982 FOR COMPLETING THE AIRPORT. A DONOR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THIS NOVEMBER AT WHICH TIME THE METHOD OF FINANCING WILL BE DECIDED. IT

IS BELIVED THAT ALL DONORS WILL AWAIT COMPLETION OF THE
DESIGN STUDY BEFORE SIGNING AGREEMENTS. STOKES

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